

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06156 121331Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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S E C R E T TEHRAN 6156

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IR US PK FR BR JA ENRG
SUBJ: PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PURCHASE

REF: (A) STATE 158584, (B) ISLAMABAD 7017

1. I MET WITH SHAH MORNING JULY 12 IN ORDER MAKE DEMARCH
CONTAINED REF A WITH RESPECT PAKISTAN ACQUISITION REPROCESSING
PLANT. SHAH WAS FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSION AND EXPRESSED
WILLINGNESS APPROACH GENERAL ZIA IN SAME TERMS HE PRIIOUSLY
USED WITH BHUTTO.

2. IN MAKING MY PRESENTATION, I REPORTED USG WILLINGNESS UNDER-
TAKE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES, BUT STRESSED
OPERATIONAL EFFECT OF SYMINGTON AENDMENT. SHAH GRASPED THIS
POINT IMMEDIATELY AND SAID IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY SALES CUTOFF
WOULD NOT BE LOST ON GENERALS.

3. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD APPROACH ZIA WITH
SAME "FUNDAMENTAL" ARGUMENTS HE HAD USED WITH BHUTTO. THESE
ESSENTIALLY HAD TO DO WITH ECONOMIC INUTILITY OF REPROCESSING
PLANT. HE SAID FRENCH HAD TOLD HIM PLANT MADE ECONOMIC
SENSE ONLY IF INSTALLED POWER CAPACITY WAS 50,000 (SIC)

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MEGAWATTS. THEREFORE, ECONOMIC AGRGUMENT WAS USELESS. IF
PURPOSE WAS REALLY FOR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, HE FELT ZIA COULD
BE CONVINCED OF ITS LACK OF UTILITY AS WELL.

4. SHAH FELT BHUTTO HAD REALLY HELD ON TO PLANS FOR REPROCESSING
PLANT IN ORDER TO HAVE SOME BARGAINING LEVERAGE WITH NEW US
ADMINISTRATION AND TO TRADE IT OFF AGAINST RENEWED PROGRAM OF

US MILITARY EQUIPMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO HIS OWN POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, BHUTTO HAD LET THE ISSUE GET OUT OF HAND.

5. AS FAR AS FRENCH CONCERNED, SHAH SAID HE GAINED IMPRESSION FROM TALKS WITH GISCARD THAT FRANCE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT REALLY INTEND TO DELIVER AS CONTRACTED. HOWEVER, GISCARD HAS TO FIND SOME WAY TO RETREAT WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE YIELDING TO US PRESSURE.

6. I SAID THERE WERE TWO POINTS THAT AROSE IN HUMMEL'S CONVERSATION WITH BHUTTO THAT SHAH MIGHT WISH ADDRESS. FIRST WAS ZIA'S CONTENTION THAT HE WAS CARETAKER AND THAT ANY ACTION (OR INACTION) HE TOOK WAS POLICY MATTER. SECOND WAS CONTENTION THAT WE ARE "DISCRIMINATOYR" WITH RESPECT PAKISTAN.

7. SHAH SAID HE WOULD HANDLE FIRST POINT BY SUGGESTING THAT "DRAGGING HEELS" WAS THE BEST PRACTICE FOR A CARETAKER. BESIDES, ZIA WAS ALREADY MAKING POLICY. HIS NEW ISLAMIC CRIMINAL CODE CARRIED PAKISTAN BACK 1300 YEARS. (SHAH ALSO DESCRIBED NEWLY NAMED ATTORNEY GENERAL AS A "REAL BASTARD".)

8. AS FAR AS SECOND PART CONCERNED, HE WOULD CITE OUR ACTIONS WITH JAPAN AND BRAZIL TO INDICATE LACK OF DI-CRIMINATION AGAINST PAKISTAN. (I GAVE HIM BRIEF SUMMARY OF PARAS 3 A AND B OF REF A). HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE "TRANSFER" SECRET

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PROVISION OF THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT.

9. IN ONE FINAL OBSERVATION, SHAH SUGGESTED THAT CURRENT ORDER OF EXTERNAL INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN SEEMED TO BE (A) SAUDI ARABIA, (B) CHINA, AND (C) IRAN. WITHOUT SAYING SO, HE LEFT UNSPOKEN SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD ALSO BE DEPLOYING SAUDIS IN THIS REPROCESSING DEMARCHE.

10. SHAH SAID HE WAS SENDING NEW AMB (FEREIDN ZANDFARD) TO ISLAMABAD WHO WOULD ARRIVE IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HIS PREFERRED METHOD WAS TO HAVE ZANDFARD CARRY THE MESSAGE IN EXPLICIT TERMS. HOWEVER, IF WE FELT THERE WAS SOME IMMEDIACY, PARTICULARLY IN TRIGGERING THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE "EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES" (PRESUMABLY SPECIAL EMISSARY). I SAID MY INSTRUCTIONS ("AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME") DID NOT INDICATE SUCH URGENCY THAT EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES WOULD BE REQUIRED. SHAH SAID, IN THAT CASE, THAT HE EXPECTED DEMARCH WOULD BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

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